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Kissinger Explains Writer Snub

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said yesterday that Soviet writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn's message "is not only that detente is a threat but that the United States would pursue an aggressive policy to overthrow the Soviet system."

At a press conference in Milwaukee, Kissinger said, "I believe under modern conditions with modern weapons . . . this has consequences that will not be acceptable to the American people or to the world."

For this reason, Kissinger acknowledged that he had advised President Ford against meeting with Solzhenitsyn. The secretary's role in the incident has been reported, but this was the first time Kissinger publicly stated his reasons for that advice.

Kissinger praised Solzhenitsyn's literary talents, saying his works were among the few unclassified papers he reads. "But I do believe if his views became the national policy of the United States we would be . . . confronting a considerable threat of military conflict. Therefore, for those who are responsible for the foreign policy of the United States his views can be listened to with respect but not as a guide."

Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) immediately denounced Kissinger's statement. "If Kissinger and Ford had met with Solzhenitsyn rather than cowering in fear of the Soviet reaction to such a meeting, they would have learned that all Solzhenitsyn is asking for is a detente with Soviet relationship that promoted the cause of human rights and a genuine peace," Jackson said.

Sen. James L. Buckley (R-Cons.-N.Y.), said, "The foundations of detente must be weak indeed if the President of the strongest nation of the free world must avoid meeting with the most eloquent living spokesman for the values represented by the free world."

In response to another question, Kissinger expressed concern about the rise of a left-wing authoritarian regime in Portugal, a member of NATO. "The evolution in Portugal," he said, "is increasingly in the direction of a state in which political parties play a less and less significant role."